

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02091 191606Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----057505 191608Z /40

O 191540Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1444
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2091

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, US, XF
SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO KHALID'S LETTER

REF: STATE 68717

1. CHARGE HAD MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD ON MARCH 19 IMMEDIATELY UPON SAUD'S RETURN FROM RIYADH AND GAVE HIM TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO KHALID. SAUD PROMISED TO CONVEY LETTER IMMEDIATELY TO KING.

2. AFTER READING TEXT, SAUD COMMENTED THAT LETTER SHOULD PLEASE KING. HE THEN ENTERED INTO LENGTHY MONOLOG ON THE UNFAIRNESS OF THE WESTERN ATTITUDE OF CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS WITHOUT PLACING THESE ACTS IN THE CONTEXT OF PREVIOUS ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS. HE SAID THAT ISRAELIS HAD STARTED THE WHOLE PROBLEM INITIALLY AND HAD ALSO KILLED A NUMBER OF INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THESE EVENTS, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD NEVER EVOKED A SIMILAR CONDEMNATION FROM THE WEST.

3. CHARGE REPLIED THAT BASIC CONFLICT HAD A LONG AND BLOODY HISTORY, BUT OUR OBJECT NOW IS TO STOP THE TRAGIC CYCLE OF KILLING AND COUNTER KILLING. WE HOPED THAT WE COULD WORK WITH SAG TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT.

4. SAUD SAID THAT SAG WAS GRATEFUL TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS POSITION DURING THE CURRENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SOUTH LEBANON. CHARGE ASKED FOR SAUDI VIEWS ON THE STATIONING OF A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SOUTH LEBANON, AND HE REPLIED THAT SAG WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A MOVE AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON APPROVED. CHARGE REPLIED THAT ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED, BOTH THE SYRIAN AND LEBANESE GOVERNMENTS HAD APPROVED THE IDEA OF A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE AS AN INTERIM MEASURE LEADING TO EVENTUAL FULL RESTORATION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY.

5. COMMENT: SAUD SEEMED RELATIVELY RELAXED OVER THE EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON AND WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY OUR INSISTENCE ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ACCOMPANIED BY THE INSERTION OF A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

WILEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, REPRISALS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA02091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-1335
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780350/aaaabqce.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 42907cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 68717
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3278934
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO KHALID'S LETTER
TAGS: PEPR, PPDC, MARR, SA, US, XF, IS, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/42907cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014